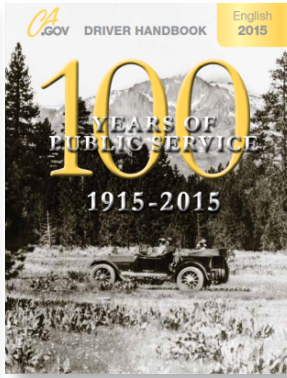
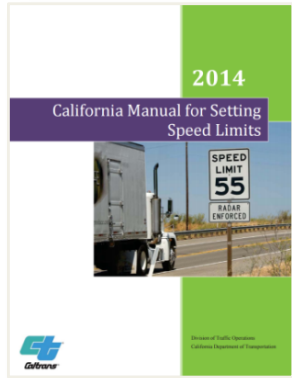


Do you still have some questions? Go to the Caltrans website at www.dot.ca.gov and type "speed limits" in the search box to find the *California Manual for Setting Speed Limits*. Another web site to visit is the DMV at www.dmv.ca.gov. Click on "Driver License" then DMV Publications" then "Driver Handbook". In the section called "Laws and Rules of the Road" is a subsection called "Speed Limits".



You can also contact the City's Traffic Engineering Division at (562) 570-6331.



Speed limits are enforced by the Long Beach Police Department. If you have an enforcement question or request, please contact the Patrol Bureau – Traffic at (562) 570-7209.

The City of Long Beach is committed to providing its citizens with the safest and most efficient transportation system possible. This pamphlet is designed to provide you with useful and helpful information regarding traffic control.



City of Long Beach Public Works

333 W. Ocean Blvd.
Long Beach, CA 90802

Phone: (562) 570-6383

www.longbeach.gov/pw/

TRAFFIC CALMING

An informational pamphlet on the proper function of traffic calming elements



CITY OF
LONG BEACH

WHAT CAN WE DO TO CONTROL SPEED? WHAT IS TRAFFIC CALMING?

California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) references three types of treatments to control speed of traffic:

Vertical Measures that use forces of acceleration to discourage speeding

Ex: Speed Tables and Speed Cushions

Horizontal Measures that force drivers to reduce speeds by impeding straight through movements

Ex: Chicanes, Chokers, Chicanes and Traffic Circles

Road Narrowing that elicits a psychological sense of enclosure to discourage speed

Ex: Median Islands, Curb Extensions

Implementing the above mentioned measures to lower the speed of travel on the roadways is known as Traffic Calming.

WHERE CAN TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES BE IMPLEMENTED?

City streets where the 85th percentile speed of vehicles is 10 mph higher than the speed limit, can have potential for traffic calming. The 85th percentile speed is defined as the speed at or below which 85 percent of the traffic is moving.

Traffic Calming projects can be initiated based on requests that are received from city residents or by the City of Long Beach Traffic Engineering Division. If regular efforts of speed enforcement and neighborhood education is found unsuccessful, different measures of Traffic Calming may be selected for implementation.

WHAT ARE THE PROS AND CONS OF VERTICAL MEASURES?

Speed Humps:

Pros: Reduces vehicle speed, can reduce traffic volumes, does not require parking removal.

Cons: May re-direct traffic to other streets, requires additional signage and striping, increases noise, may delay emergency vehicles, may cause street sweeping issues.

Speed Tables:

Pros: Reduces speed, can reduce traffic volumes, preferred by larger vehicles.

Cons: May re-direct traffic to other streets, requires additional signage and striping, increases noise, may lose street parking, may cause street sweeping and drainage issues.

Speed Cushions:

Pros: Reduces vehicle speeds, can reduce traffic volumes, preferred by larger vehicles, easy to install, may be removed and reinstalled, emergency vehicles can go by without delay.

Cons: May re-direct traffic to other streets, requires additional signage and striping, increases noise, may result in street sweeping issues.



WHAT ARE THE PROS AND CONS OF HORIZONTAL MEASURES?

Chokers:

Pros: Reduces vehicle speed, can reduce pedestrian crossing distance.

Cons: May re-direct traffic to other streets, requires additional signage and striping, may cause street sweeping and drainage issues, may require parking removal.

Chicanes:

Pros: Reduces speed, can reduce traffic volumes, can be visually pleasant.

Cons: May re-direct traffic to other streets, requires additional signage and striping, requires parking removal, may cause street sweeping and drainage issues.

Traffic Circles:

Pros: Reduces speed, can reduce traffic volumes, can be visually pleasant.

Cons: Can cause issues with right-of-way definition for some drivers, may impede emergency response.

WHY AREN'T THERE MORE TRAFFIC CALMING PROJECTS?

The extent of the problem and the need for Traffic Calming should be investigated. Oftentimes, there are more efficient ways of reducing speeds in residential or business places. History also shows that installation of these speed control elements can result in complaints of noise, vehicle damage and re-directing traffic to other streets. Installing these devices can be cost prohibitive compared to other methods of reducing vehicle speeds. Vertical and horizontal speed control elements can increase emergency response times.